

REMARKS

By the amendment herewith, claims 1 and 39 have been amended. Claims 19, 20, 44 – 46 and 48 – 51 have been cancelled. Claims 23 – 26, 28 – 32, 34 – 36 and 38 are requested to be rejoined and are ultimately dependent on amended claim 1. Claims 40 – 43 are requested to be rejoined and are ultimately dependent on amended claim 39. Claims 44 – 46 and 48 – 51 are cancelled.

The Examiner stated that claims 15 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 20 depended from claim 19 which was dependent on claim 1. Therefore the limitations of claims 19 and 20 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 39. Consequently amended claims 1 and 39 overcome the rejection of these claims and the claims that depend from them also now overcome the rejection.

Request for rejoinder

Claims 23-26, 28-32, 34-36, 38, 40-46, and 48-51 presently stand withdrawn from consideration in view of the previous restriction requirement and Applicants' election with traverse of the remaining claims.

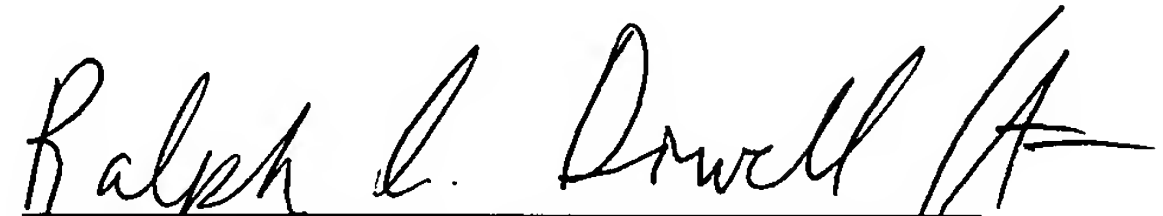
Claims 23-26, 28-32, 34-36, and 38 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, while claims 40-43 depend directly or indirectly on claim 39.

Claims 1 and 39 are generic to four of the five species identified by the Examiner, and are therefore both linking claims as discussed in M.P.E.P. § 809.03. As independent claims 1 and 39 have been shown to be allowable, Applicants respectfully request that dependent claims 23 – 26, 28 – 32, 34 – 36, 38, and 40 – 43 be rejoined in this application and allowed, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a). The claim of the fifth species, claims 48-51 have been cancelled.

Applicant respectfully requests further favorable consideration of the application.

Small Entity status has already been established.

Respectfully submitted,
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